

THIRTY-FOURTH
ANNUAL * REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

Rural District Council of Louth,

For the Year 1906,

BY

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LOUTH:

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LOUTH

Rural Sanitary District.

Annual Report for the year 1906.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health
Acts Committee.*

GENTLEMEN,

It is satisfactory to find that the mortality is still decreasing, and that it is lower than it has been at any time the previous 10 years, being at the rate of 12 per thousand; the deaths were 23 less than last year, and 39 below the average of the previous 10 years. 36 infants died before they were a year old, being at the rate of 85 per thousand births, and comparing favourably with last year, when the figures were 47 and 110 respectively. Only 6 children died between the ages of one and 5 years. The number of births was 423, being 5 less than last year, and 32 below the average of the previous 10 years. 210 were boys, and 213 girls. The natural increase of population was 201.

16 died of Phthisis, the average the previous 5 years being 15·8. 19 deaths were caused by Cancer, against 11 last year, and 20 and 21 the two previous years. The death rate per thousand was highest in the Saltfleet Sub-District, amounting to 15·3. In the other Sub-Districts it was as follows, viz.: Binbrook 10·4, Louth (Rural) 9·0, Tetney 12·4, and Withern 11·5. Further particulars of the births and deaths will be found in Tables I. and II., and of the deaths only in IV. and V., in the Appendix.

EPIDEMIC INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There have been 46 notifications, being the same number as last year. When an infectious case is notified, steps are at once taken to find out the cause and remove it; instructions are given as to isolation, disinfection, etc., and disinfectants usually supplied. When the Medical Attendant reports that the patient has sufficiently recovered, the house is disinfected by the Inspector. When necessary, the Day School is closed, and is disinfected before re-opening. There is no isolation hospital, as the houses are so scattered that it is thought unnecessary. The

following were the numbers of each disease notified during the year, viz. :

Scarlet Fever or Scarlatina	...	...	22
Diphtheria	...	...	15
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	...	...	6
Erysipelas	...	...	3
Total			46

For these cases, arranged according to diseases, ages, and districts, see Table III. in the Appendix.

The deaths from zymotic diseases were as follows :

Measles	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	0
Diphtheria	...	...	...	2
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	0
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	3
Total			...	6

or 0·3 per thousand.

Last year it was 18, or 0·9 per thousand.

SCARLET FEVER.—There have been 22 notifications, against 18 last year. Cases have occurred in all the Sub-Districts. The disease has been of a mild type, no deaths having occurred. The stress of the disease occurred in the parishes of Marshchapel and Stenigot, where nearly two-thirds of the cases were notified. In Marshchapel there were 8 cases in 3 houses. A little girl was first taken, two adults in the house caught it, and it spread to a neighbour's house where 3 children became infected. Two young girls also had the Fever in a house some distance from the others. A case was notified at Stenigot, on the last day of August. I gave strict instructions to prevent a spread of the Fever to the neighbouring houses, but these being disregarded, 2 other cases appeared in that house and 3 in one of the neighbours'. The remaining cases were at Louth Park, South Willingham, South Somercotes, Saleby, Covenham, and Tathwell; one case in each house, saving at Louth Park and Tathwell, where there were two. At Covenham and Tathwell the patients were the children of the schoolmaster and resided on the premises, so the schools were closed temporarily on my recommendation. It will be observed how wide apart these cases were, and how the precautions taken prevented the spread of the disease to other houses. In the Tathwell case the disease was probably imported from a distance.

DIPHTHERIA.—There were 15 cases against 12, and 2 deaths against 3, last year. Cases occurred in all the Districts, and in

12 different parishes, only one house being attacked in each parish, saving at Brackenborough where there were two; and there was only one case in each house except at Brackenborough, where in one house three contracted the disease. In 5 cases the children, living at South Cockerington, Fotherby, Authorpe, and in two houses at Brackenborough, appeared to become infected by attending the Girls' School in Enginegate, Louth, which was closed 3 or 4 times on account of the prevalence of the disease amongst the scholars. In only one of the 5 cases referred to could sanitary defects be detected; these I brought to your notice, and they were remedied. A case occurred at Donington-on-Bain in March; here no sanitary defects could be found. At the end of the month a case was reported at Keddington; the premises were sanitary, the boy had attended Holy Trinity School, Louth. On April 14th, a case was notified at Strubby; serious sanitary defects were found on the premises, which I brought to your notice and by your orders were remedied. In May a lad at Trusthorpe had the disease; the cause could not be traced. A fortnight later, a young woman at Withcall developed the disease; no sanitary defects were found. In July, a fatal case occurred at Yarborough; the premises were sanitary, but the patient was taken with the first symptoms of the disease the day after going to Cleethorpes. In August, a case was notified at North Thoresby; here a defective sewer pipe had caused offensive smells, this was duly rectified. 3 days later, a young man came to North Somercotes from Grimsby, suffering from the disease.

ENTERIC FEVER.—6 cases were notified, against 11 last year. There have been no deaths, last year there were 2. 3 cases were reported at Holton-le-Clay, and the same number at Binbrook. Those at Holton-le-Clay all arose from one source, and this was bad drinking water. Two or three others, feeling ill, went home to Grimsby, and, the illness proving to be Fever, were notified to the Grimsby Authority. There would have been fewer cases had the persons concerned carried out the strict instructions given to them. The well was condemned by you, and a new one was sunk, supplying wholesome water. 2 of the Binbrook cases were in one house; one of them was very severe, and would not have recovered but for the great care, kindness and skill bestowed upon the patient. There was a blocked-up drain, which has been set right. In the other case there were no sanitary defects, the water on analysis proved good, and the patient made a good recovery.

ERYSIPELAS.—There has been no fatal case. 3 have been notified, against 5 last year. The drainage in all 3 instances was good. In one case the patient is subject to frequent attacks of the complaint. Another was an infant 8 months old.

MEASLES was epidemic at North Coates and Grainthorpe in

January and February; at South Willingham and Hainton in February and March; at Legbourne in March and April; and at Theddlethorpe in July. There was only one death.

WHOOPING COUGH was epidemic in North Somercotes in July; in Trusthorpe the last quarter of the year; and at Conisholme the last 3 weeks. It is dying out in Trusthorpe. The disease has been much milder than last year, when there were 8 fatal cases; this year, no person has succumbed to it.

INFLUENZA, which last year caused 9 deaths, has only been fatal in 2 cases. As the year closes it is becoming epidemic in some parts of the District.

SANITARY WORK.

I now purpose summarizing the other Sanitary work done during the year. Both the Inspector and I have made systematic inspections of the district. The following is the Inspector's Report:—

- 150 notices for the abatement of nuisances have been served.
- 50 house drains have been repaired and put into sanitary order.
- 20 houses have been cleansed and disinfected.
- 10 schools have been disinfected.
- 10 new privies have been built.
- 14 wells have been cleaned out.
- 5 new wells have been constructed.
- 11 foul accumulations have been removed.
- 10 ashpits have been cleaned out.

WATER SUPPLY.

There are no waterworks in the district, none being necessary. The supply is chiefly by pumps, from artesian wells and overflowing springs, but there are a few surface wells. Each house, or set of houses, is supplied according to circumstances, some of the Wold villages having their water pumped up by rams. The water is generally good. Where it is impure in any way, action is taken by your orders to secure a wholesome supply at a reasonable distance. The supply of water on Major Browne's farm at Maidenwell being found inadequate, it was proposed that a new supply should be provided, and a scheme was drawn up to meet the difficulty. At your request the Inspector and I went over and examined it on the spot, and reported to you. A suitable provision has since been made, and a new well sunk. I have analysed a sample of the water and found it good and wholesome for drinking. I have analysed 42 samples of drinking water during the year, and found 27 good, 7 bad, and 8 impure in a minor degree.

DRAINAGE.

The district is wholly rural, part being in land and part maritime. About half of it is flat, and called "Marsh," although, being properly drained, it has ceased to be marshy;

the other half forms part of the Wolds, and so is very hilly. The houses are very scattered, there being 88 parishes, with, at the last census, 4430 inhabited houses, spread over 140,000 acres; consequently very few systems of drainage are required, the houses being drained according to their position and surroundings and the requirements of each individual case. A systematic inspection of the district is carried on throughout the year, the Inspector visiting from 20 to 30 houses daily. The sewage, house refuse, and excrement are all disposed of by being mixed with the land, either in the gardens or fields. Generally, cesspools are made, the overflow going into the nearest dyke. These cesspools when full are cleaned out and the sludge mixed with the land. If there is no cesspool the refuse is put on the garden. There is no scavenging. All the notices for the abatement of nuisances have been effectual where there has been time for them to mature. The filter-bed at Binbrook has worked satisfactorily, and the system adopted in 1905 of preventing the storm water from mixing with the sewage, or entering the filter-tanks, has much improved the condition of the streets during wet weather. The systems of drainage worked by your authority at North Somercotes, Ludford Parva, Aby, and Holton-le-Clay have had due attention. The Commissioners of Sewers having drawn your attention to the state of the river Lud, alleging that it was polluted whilst passing through your district, the Inspector and I were requested to report to you upon its condition. After a careful examination we found there was considerable pollution by sewage, mainly from the town of Louth, but also by a few houses in our district, where it commences to pass through. You directed a copy of our report to be sent to the Town Council of Louth, and as required by the regulations I sent copies to the County Council and the Local Government Board. Steps are being taken by your direction to stop the pollution by houses in our district. A nuisance having arisen at Withern through a defect in the drainage, you appointed a sub-committee, who, with the Inspector and I, went over, and on our recommendation you made an extension of the sewer, which remedied the evil.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

Two new houses have been built at Maidenwell to re-place others which you had condemned as uninhabitable. Two new houses have been built at Hainton.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition of the Schools has again had my careful attention. Eleven have had to be temporarily closed for outbreaks of infectious disease, against eighteen last year. North Coates, Grainthorpe, South Willingham, Hainton, Legbourne, and Theddlethorpe Wesleyan Schools have been closed for measles, Tathwell and Covenham for scarlet fever, Burgh-on-Bain for mumps, and Trusthorpe and Conisholme for

whooping cough. Tathwell School has been much improved in a sanitary respect by certain alterations and additions.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The manure works at North Thoresby, Binbrook, Marsh-chapel, Ludford Parva, and Tetney Lock have worked satisfactorily. The site of the new premises at North Thoresby has proved a great improvement upon the old one. At Tetney Lock a great addition is about to be made to the works, and decayed fish brought in large quantities from Grimsby. A sub-committee was appointed by you, who, with the Clerk, the Inspector and I went over, examined the plans and premises, and obtained other information on the subject. This led to your seriously considering the question of the adoption of bye-laws for offensive trades, and for dealing with nuisances generally. After a good deal of consideration the question was decided in the negative.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

In order to obtain greater control over these places, especially for the prevention of infectious diseases, you have adopted certain bye-laws during the year which have been duly sanctioned by the Local Government Board. There are twenty-six dairies, cowsheds and milkshops in the district, each of which has been inspected twice during the year and found satisfactory.

THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

This Act has very little operation in this district, which is wholly rural; it applies, however, to bakehouses. Forty-eight inspections of these has been made during the year, and a general compliance was found with the provisions of the Act. None of the bakehouses are underground. Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, has been adopted by you, but no standard of sufficiency and suitability of sanitary accommodation for persons employed in factories and workshops has been found necessary.

CONSUMPTION.

The dwellings of all who have died of this disease have been disinfected, and the Inspector has explained to the relatives why this is necessary, and has given them a copy of the leaflet, prepared by me, pointing out the precautions necessary to prevent the spread of the disease.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Committee for their continued kindness and courtesy during the year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES J. MYERS, M.R.C.S. and L.S.A.,
Medical Officer of Health.

March 1st, 1907.

APPENDIX.

TABLE I. RURAL DISTRICT OF LOUTH (for whole District).

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Deaths under One Year of Age.		Deaths at all ages, Total.		Deaths in Public Institutions.	Deaths of non-residents registered in district.	Deaths of residents registered beyond district.	Deaths at all ages, Nett.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1000 births registered.	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1896	20,292	511	25.1	49	95.8	260	12.8					
1897	19,319	520	26.8	62	119.2	281	14.5					
1898	19,134	482	25.1	72	149.3	293	15.3					
1899	18,919	458	24.2	48	104.8	274	14.4					
1900	18,704	453	24.2	53	116.9	273	14.5					
1901	18,487	432	23.3	54	125	244	13.1					
1902	18,487	450	24.3	38	84.4	251	13.5					
1903	18,487	414	22.3	51	123.1	240	12.9					
1904	18,487	411	22.2	32	77.8	257	13.9					
1905	18,487	428	23	47	110	245	13.2					
Averages for years 1896-1905	18,883	455	24.	50	110.6	261	13.8					
1906	18,487	423	22.8	36	85	222	12.0					

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.]

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term “Non-residents” is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term “Residents” is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The “Public institutions” to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums. A list of the Institutions in respect of the deaths in which corrections have been made should be given on the back of this Table.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 142,263 acres. Total population at all ages, 18,487. Number of inhabited houses 4,430. Average number of persons per house 4.1. At Census of 1901.

TABLE II.

RURAL DISTRICT OF LOUTH.

YEAR.	BINBROOK.				LOUTH (Rural).				SALTFLEET.				TETNEY.				WITHERN.			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1896...	3627	100	47	...	3713	87	50	...	4596	112	39	...	4421	107	66	...	3941	105	58	...
1897...	3570	99	40	10	3669	98	47	10	4550	121	73	17	4386	130	81	14	3176	72	47	11
1898...	3513	96	62	21	3629	97	39	14	4504	119	79	12	4351	97	73	19	3139	73	40	6
1899...	3457	90	46	6	3587	65	51	10	4458	112	68	11	4316	132	70	17	3102	59	39	4
1900...	3400	77	51	8	3547	101	43	14	4412	112	74	12	4281	89	61	10	3065	74	44	8
1901...	3344	77	49	11	3503	77	39	8	4366	98	64	13	4246	113	67	16	3028	67	25	6
1902...	3344	84	32	4	3503	64	36	5	4366	113	61	7	4246	83	65	10	3028	106	57	12
1903...	3344	83	45	10	3503	74	41	11	4366	102	75	19	4246	101	50	8	3028	54	29	3
1904...	3344	81	48	7	3503	80	42	9	4366	90	69	5	4246	91	58	3	3028	69	40	8
1905...	3344	77	37	9	3503	90	37	8	4366	85	61	12	4246	111	60	9	3028	64	50	9
Averages of Years 1896 to 1905.	3428	86	45	8	3566	83	42	8	4435	106	66	10	4298	105	65	10	3156	74	42	6
1906...	3344	85	35	9	3503	75	32	6	4366	90	67	10	4246	103	53	8	3028	70	35	3

NOTES.—(A) The separate localities adopted for this table should be areas of which the populations are obtainable from the census returns, such as wards, parishes or groups of parishes, or registration sub-districts. Block 1 may, if desired, be used for the whole district; and blocks 2, 3, &c., for the several localities. In small districts without recognised divisions of known population this Table need not be filled up.

(B) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions beyond the district are to be included in sub-columns C of this table, and those of non-residents registered in public institutions in the district excluded. (See note on Table I. as to meaning of terms "resident" and "non-resident.")

(C) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions, whether within or without the district, are to be allotted to the respective localities according to the addresses of the deceased.

(D) Care should be taken that the gross totals of the several columns in this Table respectively equal the corresponding totals for the whole districts in Tables I. and IV.; thus, the totals of sub-columns A, B, and C should agree with the figures for the year in the columns 2, 3, and 12, respectively, of Table I.; the gross total of the sub-columns C should agree with the total of column 2 in Table IV., and the gross total of sub-columns D with the total of column 3 in Table IV.

TABLE III.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED during the Year 1906. RURAL DISTRICT OF LOUTH.												
NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases notified in whole district.						Total Cases notified in each Locality.					
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					Binbrook	Louth Rural	Saltfleet	Tetney	Withern	
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65						65 and upwards
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	15	1	9	2	3	...	2	6	2	2	3	...
Membranous croup...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	3	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2	...
Scarlet fever ...	22	8	11	1	2	...	7	4	1	9	1	...
Typhus fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever ...	6	...	...	4	2	...	3	...	...	3	...	...
Relapsing fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	46	1	9	20	7	8	13	10	3	14	6	...

TABLE IV.

RURAL DISTRICT OF LOUTH.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1906.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined ages.							Deaths in Localities (at all ages).				
	All ages.	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Bin-brook.	Louth Rural.	Salt-fleet.	Tetney.	Withern.
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Scarlet fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria & membranous croup	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Epidemic Influenza	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea	3	1	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	1	1	...
Enteritis	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other septic diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	16	...	1	...	6	9	...	3	2	4	2	5
Other tubercular diseases	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Cancer, malignant disease	19	...	...	...	...	8	11	2	2	5	5	5
Bronchitis	11	2	...	1	...	1	7	4	1	4	2	...
Pneumonia	6	2	2	...	1	1	...	...	3	1	...	2
Pleurisy ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	13	8	2	...	...	1	2	5	3	2	2	1
Alcoholism	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cirrhosis of liver ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Venereal diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature birth	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	2	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases	29	1	...	1	...	9	18	5	2	10	6	6
Accidents	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Suicides	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...
Old Age	31	...	...	...	...	...	31	6	4	9	9	3
All other causes	75	13	1	3	1	24	33	7	11	27	22	8
All causes	222	36	6	9	8	57	106	35	32	67	53	35

TABLE V.

RURAL DISTRICT OF LOUTH.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1906.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes:																	
Certified	31
Uncertified	5
Common Infectious Diseases:																	
Small-pox
Chicken-pox
Measles
Scarlet Fever
Diphtheria: Croup
Whooping Cough
Diarrhœal Diseases:																	
Diarrhœa, all forms	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Enteritis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	3
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh
Wasting Diseases:																	
Premature Birth	3	1	...	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Congenital Defects	...	3	1	...	4	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Injury at Birth	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Want of Breast-milk
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	1	1	...	2	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Tuberculous Diseases:																	
Tuberculous Meningitis
Tuberculous Peritonitis:																	
Tabes Mesenterica	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases
Erysipelas
Syphilis
Rickets	1	...	...	...	1
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)
Convulsions	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
Laryngitis
Pneumonia	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Suffocation, overlaying
Other Causes	4	...	...	2	1	1	1	...	...	...	9
	9	3			12	5	6	1	1	4	3	1	2	1			36

Births in the year,—legitimate, 396; illegitimate, 27. Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 222. Population, estimated to middle of 1906, 18,487.

